GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3194
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
IMPORT OF FISH UNDER OGL
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the livelihood of over ten million fishermen in the country has been affected due to the decision of the Government to allow the import of fish under open general licence;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representations from various organizations of fishermen protesting such import of fish;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interests of Indian fishermen whose livelihood has been threatened?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (d) Fish is classified under chapter 3 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002.Import of fish was allowed against surrender of Special Import Licence (SIL) prior to 31.03.2000.Import restrictions on these were removed on 31.03.2000, in view of India`s international commitments.

Representations have been received regarding the likely adverse impact of removal of import restrictions on fish and fish products on domestic fishermen. However all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of Custom duties. Further, the imports are being closely monitored and Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers.

With a view to provide adequate protection to the domestic fisher men import duty on fish has been increased from 15% to 35% in the budget for the year 2000-2001.